

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

December 28, 2010

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on December 21, 2010 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Valentine  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending December 29, 2010 in the amount of \$ 249,278.13 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of December 22 – December 28, 2010
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from September 27 – December 22, 2010

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$ 1,346,611.80 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

**Councilor Jackson** said we actually did make a payment in to the depreciation account for MLD in November which is nice we had a hefty month in December.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said hard work paid off, tough decisions.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

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7. **OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves changing the frequency of Common Council meetings to once every two weeks.

**Councilor Calnon** said as the person who put this on for initial he would like to make a motion to withdraw this.

**Councilor Kelly** said he would like to know why Councilor Calnon doesn't want to vote on it tonight.

**Councilor Calnon** said for two reasons. One is because I really wanted to separate it from the resolution that follows it as I mentioned last week I don't think that they are intimately linked. And secondly I have some thoughts as we look at preparing for our organizational meeting and setting up liaisons and then talking about what we might do in our off time and I thought that it might make some sense to really look at a different committee structure. Perhaps committees of two or three people who would meet outside of regular council meetings with departments and those kinds of things so that there would be a little bit more interaction there and I just think that needs a little time to get a game plan in place.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Withdrawn  
Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves reducing the Councilor's salaries by \$1,000 each.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Valentine

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said I spoke at length about this last week so I am not going to spend a lot of time. I just believe it is a bad precedent for us to set. I think it devalues the position that we hold. It dilutes the pool of candidates that we draw from we had three races unopposed this year. Personally, I'd be embarrassed if we ended up having a Ward race with no one running and we had to appoint someone. I would have a hard time accepting that. The great majority of the time that we spend is away from City Hall its not here during our meetings. At the beginning of our term three years ago we dropped the benefits of this position by getting rid of the insurance which was a savings to the City and the people that ran, ran with the thought that the position was for \$10,000 and I think if we were going to change it, it should have been done before people decided to run and it should have been done before election time so that when we are walking in the streets the people in the streets can tell us how they feel about it. So I am definitely against this and I'll be voting no.

**Councilor Valentine** said I would like to qualify my vote since this is my last meeting I just want people to understand that my voting in favor of reducing the salary isn't made easier because tonight's my last meeting that I would have still voted in favor to reduce the salary even if tonight wasn't my last Council meeting. So I want to drive that to you guys and so that's clear. I think symbolic gestures are very powerful and I don't think we should lose sight of that and while perhaps this is symbolic we all have to tighten our belts and I believe the Council also needs to do that. \$1,000 here or there isn't going to make any difference with all due respect, **Councilor Carpenter**, in the minds of somebody who's choosing to run for Council. If you really want to assure people to run, I think perhaps maybe, you make the job full time with a salary that's reasonable with fringe then really have a supportive Council who can support the Office of the Mayor as well.

**Councilor Carpenter** said are you making that motion?

**Councilor Valentine** said no I'm not of course not. I'm saying that you know at this level \$10,000, \$9,000 a year isn't going to make any difference.

**Councilor Calnon** said I want to repeat just a little bit of what I said last week. The symbolism of this is actually what it is all about. While it is real dollars it's not a lot of real dollars, but, we are faced with a state and a nation that are suffering from the lasting throws of a recession. We expect that in the very near future there will be state legislation that not only freezes state workers salaries but allows local municipalities to do the same. And my reason for offering this was to say listen if we're even going to consider that as leaders then we should be able to say that we share your pain and that really was my purpose.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(Councilors Carpenter, Rabideau and Jackson voted in the negative. Councilors Kelly, Calnon, and

Valentine voted in the affirmative.)

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I have given this issue a lot of thought. This council has heard my stories over and over again since we have worked together and how councils work. Our Council met every Tuesday almost for 4 years as a work session and then we voted every Thursday at our meeting and we made that commitment regardless of what the salary was. I can also tell you that we did some many symbolic things we I think led this City in a difficult time. We never looked at the financial end of it obviously and I think anybody who truly wants this position isn't going to do it for \$10,000 or \$9,000. On the other hand I find it interesting that after all these years since I was on the Council and I don't know if it's ever been changed or reduced or added, but, I don't feel it is my responsibility for me to say a council member should make more or less. I just don't think it's that symbolic a gesture to reduce it by a \$1,000. You want to reduce it by \$5,000, you want to make it full time, and you want to go either way that's fine. \$1,000 to me is a lot of money; it's a lot of money to a lot of city employees and people out of jobs. But on the other hand as I am looking at the ensuing votes on some things. I think there's some symbolism here that we're going to see people voting for some of these things that are adding to the budget that I find unacceptable more so then this particular issue. So while I appreciate everybody's position and I do because I understand all of them and I respect them I am not going to support reducing the councilor's salaries by \$1,000. My vote is I won't be supporting the reduction so, no.

(Mayor Kasprzak broke the tie in the negative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

Follow up Action: None

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#### **AMENDING THE MAYOR'S 2011 BUDGET:**

**C. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to add \$48,000 to the Police Department Regular Payroll to reflect addition of a Systems Administrator (IT) position; adjust fringe benefit entries to reflect that change.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Valentine

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said this is one of those that I have been thinking about since we first talked about it and I think it's a good idea but I don't know that I'm going to vote for it tonight. I really in the back of my mind think that it shouldn't be tied to the Police Department that we really need an IT department. We listened to department heads and people talking to us and this position will be used not just for the police department but my understanding's that this person will be used city wide and just with that thought in mind percentages of the pay for this system probably should come out of the individual departments that he or she is going to be used. So I'm not against adding this position but at this point I am against adding it to the Police Department so I would like to bring it up or to change it so that it came to a more equitable share throughout the departments for where this person is going to be used.

**Councilor Rabideau** said I thought we discussed this before. Of course my main concern is that this person would be used throughout the City not solely for the Police Department and so we have the assurance of the Chief. We talked about how we could pay for this position by charging the different departments by the use of that person throughout the year. If one department uses the person more than another department then the charges should be more towards that department at the end of the year. So actually you can divvy out the cost of that person. And the third thing is that I think it is necessary in a city this size having a full time person and a part time IT person in today's day when we have so many computer problems and we have seen some things happen in the city that kind of made us call attention to the fact that its necessary and that we can't take a chance to the taxpayers based on our financial department of having a breakdown or having someone break in to the Finance Department through a computer or software. So I guess its necessary and I see it's necessary and ironing out the final vouchers as we see here we can do those and at the end of the year I think it would work out fine and I'd support it.

**Councilor Kelly** we had this discussion I think two years ago at budget time and we did add an IT position and the promise was that person was going to support the other departments in the city as well as the Police Department although he was going to be funded by and directed primarily by the Police Department. As far as I can tell that didn't happen the finance computer or server is still in the Finance Department it's not behind the Police Department fire wall as far as I know. It's not in the Police Department premises at least. That wasn't done. We were also promised with all the additional automation we would receive to reduce the size of the Police Department and that didn't happen either and I am disappointed by those things and therefore I can't support adding another IT position until the promises of the previous IT position are fulfilled. So I'll be voting against this.

**Councilor Jackson** said I too have been giving this one a lot of thought. There are things that I do question. The full salary is put in to the general fund and I agree that it should be distributed across the departments based on some type of usage. I think this came to us very late in the year. I think it's a good idea. George had asked for a list of job duties and he was provided apparently just a civil service description of job duties not specific to the City. I think it's a good position but I want it better defined before I am going to vote for it.

**Councilor Valentine** said on the same note I had asked if we could have a description of what this new position would also be tasked with that we hadn't received prior to this vote and then I needed a better sense of what our current IT specialist was already doing and how he was spending his time outside the department.

**Councilor Carpenter** said I just want to take a half a second to point out that except for the Councilor's salary any of these motions that we are looking at now can be changed next week when the new Council comes in whatever we vote doesn't necessarily end up being the end answer. I just wanted everyone to understand that. I mean we do here at the table but just for everyone else.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I wasn't in attendance when you were talking about these things but I can guarantee you one thing. The individual Bryan Brayton has done yeoman service throughout the city helping all departments. There is no question about that and he is taken away from his duties at the Police Department. I don't know if Councilor Calnon shared that with you during the discussion

that's a fact. Obviously, you people have made your mind up and that's fine. I'm not here advocating one way or the other. I'm just letting you know for the record he has been extremely generous this last year helping anybody at the expense of his other duties at the Police Department and so I want everyone to know that for a fact.

**Councilor Rabideau** said I forgot one thing about this position. We had conversations and one of them being where Chief had discussed possibly they could use Asset Seizure money for I think he referred to it as win fall money as you said taking the edge off the first year.

**Police Chief Desmond Racicot** said I was talking about managerial for the lieutenant's stuff like that. Asset Forfeiture is not going to cover the cost an IT position that would be for the City of Plattsburgh not for the Police Department.

**Councilor Calnon** said since the other one is a current position it's not going to cover that as well.

**Police Chief Desmond Racicot** said that is correct.

**Councilor Kelly** said I have sat here for three years and watched Asset Seizure funds be used for all kinds of things some of them for good some of them aren't I guess. My question has always been what happens when the Asset Seizure money runs out. Do the taxpayers of the City of Plattsburgh then have the responsibility to pay that whatever that service was that Asset Seizure paid for the first year or two years. And my guess is the answer to that question is yes they do have that responsibility and that makes me wonder shouldn't somebody be looking at Asset Seizure and see that is it really profitable to the City of Plattsburgh or does it end up being a burden over time. I don't think anybody can answer that question today.

**Councilor Calnon** said the things that are funded under Asset Seizure are things that aren't otherwise budgeted and they will not cover general personnel expenses. As you look at our budget most of our money is in personnel in every department Police Department is almost exclusively. So the fact that we're not funding ongoing positions but we're funding individual events if we buy a police car for example with general fund money we use Asset Seizure money to outfit it so that's a one time expense. That is really what the Asset Seizure rules are all about is so that we don't get in to a situation where we depend on it and then yes if it was gone and we bought a new car we would have to outfit it ourselves but there is not generally a built in dependence on that of any length because it's discreet events. We do training that way we do a lot of the technology equipment if we wanted the new device for the police to use the latest thing in surveillance for example. We could purchase it with Asset Seizure but that's real tangible here doesn't have to be replaced if you didn't want to. There is a pretty good chance we haven't built a long term liability we've built a dependency because we can do more with the taxpayers money by doing this. If you buy are car for \$25,000 and put \$20,000 of furnishings in it you get a \$45,000 car for \$25,000. If that money wasn't there we would have to pay it but I don't believe it is going away in the near future and so I think it is still a pretty prudent way to use it.

**Councilor Kelly** said and what does it cost year after year after year to maintain that car as you used in your example.

**Councilor Calnon** said well the car would be maintained on general fund revenue.

**Councilor Kelly** so the taxpayers would pay for that.

**Councilor Calnon** said the car itself sure which they would do if it was purchased anyway.

**Councilor Jackson** said a car is being taken out of service we are not building an inventory of cars its; this one falls off this one gets purchased.

**Councilor Kelly** said so you have to wonder then with each of these projects that we fund through Asset Seizure. What does it cost the taxpayer over the long run and is it really worth it. We send a lot of people to train and you have wonder well who's minding the store while these guys go to training and Asset Seizure pays for the training. Do they pay for the overtime it requires to staff the Police Department while these guys are away or does the taxpayer pay it over time? This says that we pay \$292,000 for overtime in the Police Department that's a lot of money. What did that money get used for was that to cover the cost of our guys going to training that was paid for by Asset Seizure. If it was then the taxpayers didn't get such a good deal after all. It's certainly worth investigating.

**Councilor Calnon** said I think so Mike but I also think we had this discussion with a specific resolution and it was one where there was no overtime fill. I do know that much of the overtime that is in the Police Department is related to patrol. In particular in the fall and spring when the college is at activity virtually every officer is working overtime. Certainly it is something that can be looked in to but I think in general Asset Seizure money is a pretty good bargain for the city and I think it really lets us do some things that we otherwise wouldn't. We would certainly make different choices if we didn't have that if you can get 2 for one on your dollar.

**Councilor Kelly** said I wish I had thought of this in January of 2008. Maybe you guys that are remaining can take up the banner with that one and keep an eye on it.

**Councilor Rabideau** said getting back to this IT position. I see some people are concerned about getting an outline is there a way we can hold off until we get a defined outline on this.

**Councilor Carpenter** said we can just vote on it and we can always change it with the next council. That's why I was explaining earlier these things; whatever we vote on doesn't have to stay.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I would suggest that you vote on it this evening and the first meeting of the year you bring back the amendments that you folks would like to either vote on or discuss that's my suggestion.

**Councilor Valentine** said that is exactly how I would like to see it on hold is that there be a better defined job description of the position being requested and then what it is Bryan is doing currently.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine and Jackson voted in the negative. Councilor Calnon voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

Follow up Action: None

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**D. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to add \$30,000 to Fire Department Overtime Pay; adjust fringe benefit entries to reflect that change.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said just in case I might have missed anything take a half a second Paul and tell us exactly what this \$30,000 is going to do for you.

**Fire Chief Paul Williams** said the \$30,000 that was cut out of the overtime budget if we do settle a contract coming up next year and we raise our manning this overtime will help cover that.

**Councilor Carpenter** said but at this point we don't know if the contract so.

**Fire Chief Paul Williams** said you are correct.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(Councilors Carpenter, Rabideau, Calnon and Jackson voted in the negative. Councilors Kelly and Valentine voted in the affirmative.)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

Follow up Action: None

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**E. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to increase the management pay scale by \$1,250 for each item, and by 1.5%; adjust fringe benefit entries to reflect that change.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(Councilors Carpenter, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine and Jackson voted in the affirmative. Councilor Kelly voted in the negative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**F. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to reclassify Police Lieutenant salary from Grade 8, Steps 7 and 9, to Grade 9, Step 9.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter



**Motion to amend to: Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to reclassify Police Lieutenant salary from Grade 8, Steps 7 and 9, to Grade 9, Step 9 and 11 respectively.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said what it would do to our figures Jim.

**Councilor Calnon** said it's about \$5500 difference.

**Councilor Carpenter** said \$5500 from what we got with the step 9 grade 9.

**Councilor Calnon** said the difference is actually \$3,484 in wages which then raises that line from \$14076 to \$18600 so its just about \$4600.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to reclassify Police Lieutenant salary from Grade 8, Steps 7 and 9, to Grade 9, Step 9 and 11 respectively.

Discussion:

**Councilor Kelly** said now I would like to pick up where I left off with the Police Department overtime the only reason we're having to do this is because of Police Department overtime. Our patrolmen are being paid overtime in large amounts I don't know if they are excessive I won't characterize them as that. I don't know if will ever create this gap that we want to create between management and labor as long as the overtime the patrolmen are receiving is so high. Next year it may be even more so that means next year we have to reclassify the Police Lieutenants and Captains salary to something else. The real secret to controlling this I believe is to control the Police Department overtime its \$292,000 this year and its higher then any other department the next closest department is the Department of Public Works at \$142,000 not even half of that amount. So there is where the real challenge lies is to control the overtime then the management salaries would be fine.

**Councilor Carpenter** said actually I don't have the figures in front of me but I believe when I was comparing base pay to base pay, I didn't really look at the overtime because I understand how overtime works, base pay to base pay it was off and that's why I want to raise these to me this motion and the next one are the most important ones that we are facing as far as I'm concerned. Do you have any ideas or thoughts on how to control overtime? I understand you'd like to I'd like to too but do you have a plan or anything at all we could do to help us control overtime.

**Councilor Kelly** said not at this time and I am going to vote for this too because I think the Lieutenants probably should make a little more than the average patrol person. But there's where the problem is if you want to solve the problem that's where you're going to solve it. And next year or the year after or three years from now this problem will come up again if the overtime stays at this rate.

**Councilor Valentine** said I am just glad that this problem is finally getting fixed it's been needed for a long time.

**Councilor Rabideau** said I am not going to say too much but I thought the comparison was between a Sergeant and the Lieutenant not the patrolmen and a Lieutenant.

**Councilor Calnon** said yes.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**G. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to reclassify Police Captain salary from Grade 10 to Grade 11.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion:

**Councilor Calnon** said I would move that we delete this one as well. It was put in there so that we wouldn't forget that there is also a separation between Lieutenants and Captain. One of the amendments that was possible to the prior one was that we could have gone instead of grade 8 to grade 9 from grade 8 to grade 10. Had we done that we would have had the Lieutenants and the Captain on the same grade. So I believe actually that there is a sufficient gap between the Lieutenants and the Captain and that a raise at this point is not necessary. It was really there to be sure if we raise the Lieutenants to the figure they'd like to see we would have had a problem with the Captains salary. I will oppose this.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Valentine voted in the affirmative. Councilors Rabideau, Calnon and Jackson voted in the negative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

Follow up Action: None

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**H. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to include in the Capital Plan \$100,000 to remediate issues in the Library.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Valentine  
Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said for the record Stan does this involve part of this the roof.

**Library Director Stan Ransom** said it is mainly the mold and asbestos. It could include the roof depending on what's happening with the City Engineer.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said **Mike Brodi of Public Works** has been involved in shooting die on the roof to find out where the specific issues are so I believe part of this will be utilized for some of the roof issues. We don't know the extent of it. I don't want to get Stanley upset but to prioritize which is more important would be unfair they are all very important in the building.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**I. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to establish a tree planting project for the city streets in the amount of \$20,000

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
Discussion:

**Councilor Jackson** I had a conversation with future **Councilor Case** about this he is very much in favor of this as **Councilor Valentine** is and **Councilor Kelly** as well. In the course of the discussion I also talked with Mr. Treacy and I haven't had a chance to talk with Mr. Brodi. But, one of the items within this \$20,000 was I think \$10,000 for a grinder and with the equipment that MLD has and Public Works has and there is going to be a committee formed I would like to amend this to make it \$7,500 rather than \$20,000.

**Motion to amend the amount to \$7,500**

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Valentine

Discussion:

**Councilor Kelly** said **Councilor Jackson** you were explaining that some of this \$20,000 should be used for a stump grinder and that there should be a committee set up to control it.

**Councilor Jackson** said no when we had the budget meeting Mike a big conversation came up about forming a committee which I think Chris is very much willing to do. It's a committee with community input determining what types of trees need to be which are good for you don't want to plant a tree that is going to grow 70 feet tall underneath a power line. You would rather grow a tree

that is going to grow 25 feet tall or 20 feet tall that is going underneath a power line. There was a lot of discussion during the meeting when we had our budget meeting about this proposal and there was discussion after it. So it is forming a citizen committee much like the green committee or maybe even an off shoot of the green committee to discuss these issues.

**Councilor Kelly** said why \$7,500 I guess is my question.

**Councilor Jackson** said because we figured out that a good tree of the right diameter that is going to survive is probably around \$200 to \$250 and we are going to plant about 40 trees a year so that is where the number came from.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to establish a tree planting project for the city streets in the amount of \$7,500.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said I would love to have this program because I think it would be nice for the city. But I don't necessarily see it as a necessity and we are trying to tighten our belt and we've heard about that most of these I am looking at do we need to do this or do we want to do it. And if we want to do it I prefer to wait until we have some kind of a win fall. Over the course of the last three years every once in awhile something turns our way we have done some good budgeting and used low figures and found out we've got more money through Saranac Partners then what we expected we've gotten more through sales tax then what we expected. For me I prefer to wait for one of those things to happen and then fund this out of there. I'm uncomfortable with funding this out of our budget.

**Councilor Valentine** said so for a mere \$7500 we can help to maintain the integrity of our neighborhoods. Which we have over the course of the last three years kind of chipped away at and we have changed the landscape of many of our neighborhoods. We know that we have felled about at least 65 if not upwards of 70 trees in the last three years if I am correct. We have in that changed the face of some of our neighborhoods quite dramatically in which it will increase the cost of electricity to our residents. Trees help provide cooling in the summer and shade. We know that trees in long term reduce asthma rates. We know that they increase property values no doubt besides adding to the aesthetic value and integrity of our neighborhoods. So if we continue to move forward without replanting trees that we continue to fell we're just going to continue to add to a problem that's already I think been detrimental to our city and its beautiful and I'd hate to see that we continue to change that landscape going forward.

**Councilor Kelly** said my lasting legacy here on the City Council will be nothing. Three years from now nobody will remember what I did or didn't do and that's ok. But if I vote tonight to plant trees

50 years from now those trees will still be there and I think that's a beautiful thing. It's a wonderful thing and it will bring more fresh air to the City of Plattsburgh than any of us ever did so I'm going to vote for it.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(Councilors Carpenter and Rabideau voted in the negative. Councilors Kelly, Calnon, Valentine and Jackson voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**J. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to raise the amount of the Fire Department Pumper Truck to \$400,000 in the 2011 Capital Plan; move the Fire Department Aerial Truck to 2013.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**K. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to increase the 2011 Capital Plan by \$15,000 to move the Public Works Trash Refuse Packer (\$190,000) to 2011 from 2012 and to move the Public Works Recycle Vehicle (\$175,000) from 2011 to 2012.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**L. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to add Eco Dock revenue and expense, including local share of \$25,000 of expense from the general fund.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**M. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to reduce Council regular pay and corresponding fringe benefits to reflect the change, if the Resolution to reduce Councilor Salaries was adopted.

**Councilor Calnon** said since that prior resolution failed I move that we withdraw this from the agenda.

**Motion to withdraw.**

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Withdrawn

Follow up Action: None

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**N. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to add to Retirement Reserve Account in anticipation of another increase in 2011-2012 retirement year.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said I believe we need to put an amount to this so we can agree to it. So does anyone have?

**Councilor Jackson** said I would like to make a suggestion. Right now we have \$359,000 in that reserve. I would personally like to make that a nice round \$500,000 so I would like to add \$141,000.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I am just trying to make it easier for tonight do we absolutely have to have a number in there to do this.

**Councilor Calnon** we need to have a number for the budget whether we want to use it or not. If your question is should we delay this until we see how everything else comes out and then kind of weigh our fund balance and our reserve accounts, probably makes some sense.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I think after all your decisions this evening Richard obviously, and it's a short week, I guarantee you I would not expect him to these figures all done tomorrow. And if he can work on what else you voted on early next week we can have everything ready and then you can have discussion on January 6<sup>th</sup> like you are requesting instead of trying to find a number that makes sense when it can move back and forth a little bit. And we may have some extra money because this particular account is one that's key to anything we are going to do in 2011. That's just a suggestion I'm not telling you what to do.

**Councilor Calnon** said may I ask Richard a question. Obviously, one of the things that we have to

do to that really kind of finalizes the deal is when we actually authorize the tax warrant. That's really the final step in all of this or the tax levy.

**City Chamberlain Richard Marks** said there is a tax warrant and also a budget resolution.

**Councilor Calnon** said that's the final step of budget approval. My understanding is that any of these other changes where we talk about things like affecting two or three or four different salary lines or two or three or four different departments takes you quite a while to make a change. But if we are taking about contributions to a reserve that's a pretty simple if you put 90 in you take 90 out of there so we wouldn't really be complicating your life much if we held that decision until next week.

**City Chamberlain Richard Marks** said no.

**Councilor Rabideau** said I would like to know what the end result to the tax rate.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I think it is a prudent thing to do and wait until next week.

**Councilor Carpenter made a motion to table both this one and motion O until we have some better figures.**

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tabled

Follow up Action: None

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**O. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to define the amount of unappropriated Fund Balance to reduce tax levy.

**Councilor Carpenter said I further make Motion to table O also until next week define the amount of unappropriated Fund Balance**

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tabled

Follow up Action: None

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**P. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget** to add \$100,000 to repair Fire Station 1 roof in the 2011 Capital Budget.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None**

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

1. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF MIKEAL STOUTENGER TO THE POSITION OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 18, 2011.
2. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF JIM ACKERMAN TO THE POSITION OF FIREFIGHTER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, 2011.
3. Request from Jon Ruff Environmental Manager to attend the "New York Water Environment Association 2011 Annual Meeting" in New York City, NY from February 7 - 9, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$1,597.

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**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilor Calnon** wanted to make one point. Using Richard's spreadsheet and assuming that I got the votes proper. The figure that we were looking at of \$311,000 has so far been reduced to \$102,000. The biggest chunk of that of course was the decision on not to deal with the \$90,000 retirement reserve figure that he had put in there. That's \$102,000 is reasonable we still have high expectations that we are going to save some money in fringe benefits although to date we still only have one switched now that can save us as much as \$10,000 per person. So we are hoping that by tomorrow or the next day these guys will have their stuff in and we can save some more money. Actually as the Press Republican noted to today it would let us find money elsewhere to fund what we wanted to do at the 11 ½ hour.

**Councilor Jackson** said I do have to comment on the editorial in the paper today. It was written by someone who obviously doesn't understand the budget process and how it's been done around here for a long time. There haven't been any 11<sup>th</sup> hour deals. Its things were put in the original budget the Mayor didn't feel comfortable with them he took them out the managers came to us to see if we can get them back in. This stuff isn't new. I did attend some of the budget hearings as a member of the budget committee with the Mayor's budget so there wasn't a lot of 11<sup>th</sup> hour deals being struck it is the way the process is run for as long as I've been here.

**Councilor Valentine** said so tonight's my last meeting and while I didn't think I was going to get emotional. Much of life is a compromise as we saw in the vote with the tree planting program and I just want to say thank you for supporting that program. As I leave, how can I recap 8 years on the City Council, I do need to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to my Ward 5 residents for having supported me through 3



campaigns to all of the City department heads, city employees for all these years all of you have been wonderful to work with and have always been available and gone above and beyond with my requests for information I have tried to gather over the years. Thank you to my fellow Councilors, it is going to be odd not seeing you guys every week another adjustment to my life. Thank you to Donny for your support and all the Mayor's who I have sat under so that's it, Thank You.

**Councilor Kelly** said the greatest honor that I had in three years of doing this job is being allowed to go and represent the City of Plattsburgh at the Martin Luther King Day celebration. And I tried my best to represent the City of Plattsburgh as an inclusive city that allows someone like myself to serve as a public servant. I will always be grateful to the City of Plattsburgh for that. I am also so pleased that the person who is taking my place in this chair is a 26 year old young man who is a student at Plattsburgh State, that's a first, he's young probably the youngest City Councilor we've ever had, and he is also a minority. And I think that just speaks to the type of city that we live in a city that's diverse, that respects diversity and that encourages people like Mark Tiffer to run for office and to succeed. So I wish him all the best and I know that with you seasoned Councilors by his side he is going to do a fantastic job.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said I wish both of you good luck. You both will be missed I am not sure you will miss us after a month or so. But, you both have done good things and you should be proud of that as you walk out today. As Amy alluded to as well the constituents that you have represented especially in Ward 5 all those years have appreciated you they've called me and told me that's what it is all about quite frankly. One other person I'd like to mention who is retiring who is not here is Plattsburgh City Historian James Bailey. He first started in 1982 in his position. I just want to say for the record that I really appreciate his outstanding service to this community and to the City of Plattsburgh. There is not a person who has cared more about representing the City then Mr. Bailey over all those years. I'm not sure how we're going to replace him we are going to find someone to take his place. He is a gentlemen and he also did an outstanding job for the City of Plattsburgh.

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## **11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Mary Ellen Cleveland** 59 Prospect Ave. I'd like to commend Desi Racicot and all the Police Department for the fine job you did last week. All of the emotion in here right now is kind of hard to beat, but, outside we must remember what is going on in our city and I am very proud of the job you are doing, that's number one. Number two on all the spending things that are in the, whatever, I hope you'll stay with the Mayor's propose 2% hike I think that is enough. But if you don't, you know what, I hope that you guys will work on trying to come up with some kind of a volunteer program where people can do things and help out and get some kind of reprieve on their taxes if it's going to keep running away. Try to think about that you are talking about a green committee. I am not afraid to pick up a broom and sweep so if you can think about something people can do instead of sitting back and shelling out, shelling out, shelling out. Because I am afraid we are going to get attacked again with the school board and it's not pretty. As far as planting trees it's a great idea and every where there is a tree it looks nice. I have actually bought trees on my own. But, I would also like to say the MLD has changed our backside where we live but regardless they did a great job. Good luck Amy, Good luck Mr. Kelly.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Valentine

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 6:29 pm